

DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

August 2009

U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

This Month

- Rice
- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Livestock Dairy and Poultry
- Cotton and Wool
- Vegetables and Melons

All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Amber Waves

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves

Taking the Pulse of Rural Health Care

Reforming the U.S. health care system is high on the national policy agenda. Health care challenges confronting rural households include lower socioeconomic status, higher average age, and greater geographic dispersal than the general U.S. population.

Baby Boom Migration Tilts Toward Rural America

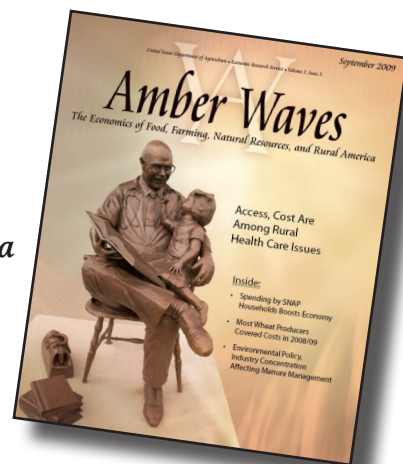
As Americans age, their likelihood of migrating, their reasons for moving, and their destination choices shift dramatically. Baby boomers—born between 1946 and 1964—are entering a stage when moves to rural locales increase, especially to areas with scenic amenities and lower housing costs.

Broadband Internet Service Helping Create a Rural Digital Economy

During the past two decades, the Internet has grown rapidly, joining telephones, televisions, and cars as a common necessity and becoming an integral part of the economy. In addition to metropolitan benefits, rapid growth in broadband service is providing economic and societal benefits to rural areas. This article is based on the recent ERS report *Broadband Internet's Value for Rural America*.

Full Throttle U.S. Ethanol Expansion Faces Challenges Down the Road

The years of full-throttle expansion in the U.S. ethanol industry since 2000 may soon be behind us. Large gains in the scale of the industry over the past decade were achieved by “picking the low-hanging fruit” on both the supply and demand sides of the market. Achieving further large-scale gains will depend on whether the industry can overcome challenges in producing ethanol through cellulosic technologies and on expanding use of ethanol in automobiles.



Follow ERS on
twitter



Tweet!
Tweet!

USDA_ERS is now on Twitter!

Go to: http://twitter.com/USDA_ERS

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep up to date with people and organizations such as ERS. Join today to start receiving USDA_ERS's tweets.



Farm and Rural Populations Experience Lower Access to Health Care

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB57

The recent report *Health Status and Health Care Access of Farm and Rural Populations* notes that rural residents have higher rates of age-adjusted mortality, disability, and chronic disease than their urban counterparts, though mortality and disability rates vary more by region than by metro status. Both farm and rural populations experience lower access to health care along the dimensions of affordability, proximity, and quality, compared with their nonfarm and urban counterparts.

Baby Boomers Likely to Migrate to Non-metro Counties

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR79

Members of the baby boom cohort, now 45-63 years old, are approaching a period in their lives when moves to rural and small-town destinations increase. An analysis of age-specific, net migration during the 1990s reveals extensive shifts in migration patterns as Americans move through different life-cycle stages. If baby boomers follow past migration patterns, the nonmetro population age 55-75 will increase by 30 percent between now and 2020.



What the 2008/2009 World Economic Crisis Means for Global Agricultural Trade

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS0905

The global economic crisis that started in late 2008 has sharply curtailed international trade, including a short-term decline in the value of global agricultural trade of around 20 percent. ERS research indicates that after slowing, global agricultural trade will continue to grow in the future. The crisis is leading to a realignment of exchange rates, and the ultimate resolution of the crisis will depend on adjustments in the exchange value of the U.S. dollar. The U.S. agricultural sector would benefit from a depreciating dollar, which results in high export earnings, high agricultural commodity prices, increased production, and increased farm income.

Younger Consumers Exhibit Less Demand for Fresh Vegetables

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/VGS/2009/08Aug/VGS33301

Growth over time in demand for fresh vegetables for at-home consumption may slow. Using data collected between 1982 and 2003, this study explores how at-home demand for fresh vegetables varies among members of younger and older cohorts. People born more recently are found to spend less money for fresh vegetables than older Americans do. Unless something happens to alter how the current young make food choices, they likely will exhibit a lower level of demand for at-home fresh vegetables in their later years than today's older generations currently exhibit.

How to get more information...

More information about the items featured in *DatelineERS* can be found on our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by going to the web address listed in each article. This newsletter is available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news